

NOTICE TO SOLICIT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Outreach Meeting DEQ Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Strategy January 13, 2005

The Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) Office of Wetlands & Water Protection, under grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is in the process of developing a ten-year strategy to monitor and assess the quality of the Commonwealth's wetland resources. Our assessment approach will generate data that will be used to conduct biannual reporting on status and trends of wetlands as part of Virginia's 305(b) report, and to evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory and voluntary programs in meeting Virginia's mandate of no net loss of wetland resources through regulatory programs, and a net resource gain through voluntary programs.

Both DEQ and EPA believe that public involvement is a key part of the development of a sound and useable strategy that serves all of the citizens of the Commonwealth. A public outreach meeting will be held on Thursday, January, 13 2005 from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the main auditorium of Virginia Commonwealth University's Life Science Building in downtown Richmond, Virginia. Virginia Commonwealth University's Life Science Building is located at 1000 West Cary Street (corner of West Cary Street and Harrison Street). The morning session will include presentations on DEQ's wetland monitoring and assessment strategy and the sampling design that is being developed to implement the strategy. The afternoon will feature facilitated break-out discussion sessions on five of the ten elements of our strategy so that we may discuss each element in more detail and receive public input.

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